

From: Michael Overton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 5:29pm
Subject: Proposed Antitrust Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

As a computer technician who has worked on computers since prior to the release of Windows 95, I urge the Department of Justice to reconsider the terms of this settlement in one primary area. This area concerns the compliance of Microsoft and the future bundling of programs and operating systems.

Under the upheld ruling of the anti-trust trial, Microsoft was declared a monopoly. They were found to be in violation of the law by illegally leveraging their operating system monopoly to promote other programs and eliminate competition. They made previous agreements to not conduct such actions, and consistently violated those agreements.

There must be a strong mechanism to prevent such actions in the future. There must be strong mechanisms to maintain competition in the marketplace, or there will be no marketplace. The computer market has been a market of explosive change and progression precisely because there has been so much competition in the past, but we are watching this competition rapidly erode into nothing.

Socialist systems and history both show the fundamental inability of a large monopoly to operate in the best interests of the economy and the consumer. The anti-trust laws of this nation were created to address this problem, and we risk having to re-learn what previous generations learned for us.

Please examine the past record of Microsoft in this area, and resolve this issue; not in the best interest of one corporation, or the short-term expediency of the government, but in the interest of preserving a robust and competitive marketplace.

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